L. Lowie 6-6 (1909-27) 1932 PTS Tonala PTS

Asakendrions. I was told that a deposed king would usually be killed to prevent later complications. 643

ROYAL POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The king was supposed to stand in the same relation to his subjects as the father of a family to its members. In theory he had absolute power over their persons and property, but it was a power which he never dared to exercise arbitrarily. The Tanala kings never developed the elaborate palace organization which, in some other tribes, interposed a barrier between ruler and subject and made oppression safe and easy. A king who sold a subject into slavery or seized the property of even the poorest commoner would arouse a storm of protest. The whole community would feel that its rights were in danger and the offender was liable to be deposed or murdered. Bad kings occasionally molested rich subjects on trumped-up charges, but even in this they had to move with caution. In general the rule was benevolent and the duties attached to the royal office balanced its advantages. 643 661

A king was expected to aid and counsel his subjects, maintain order throughout the realm, lead his people in war, and above all administer justice. Stinginess was a severe reproach and in bad seasons the king was expected to help his subjects to the limits of his property. Any subject could apply to him for advice and he was also expected to hold *kabary* ("palavers") from time to time and counsel his people in formal fashion. One *kabary* was always held in the spring, before planting began, at which the king addressed his subjects and encouraged them to plant plenty of crops and cultivate them well. At another *kabary* he advised the gathering of forest products. He was also expected to protect and stimulate trade, especially with Europeans. 643

The maintenance of order was in the hands of the *Asakendrions* of the various *gasies*. Each *gasy* was expected to keep down lawlessness and banditry within its territory and to surrender to the king any of its members who had been guilty of offenses against members of other *gasies* or the subjects of another king. Each *Asakendrions* was personally responsible to the king for the behavior of his followers and might, in extreme cases, be fined, although apparently he could not be deposed without the consent of his own people. [627 6-8] [642]

The activities of the king as war leader have been described in the section on Warfare.